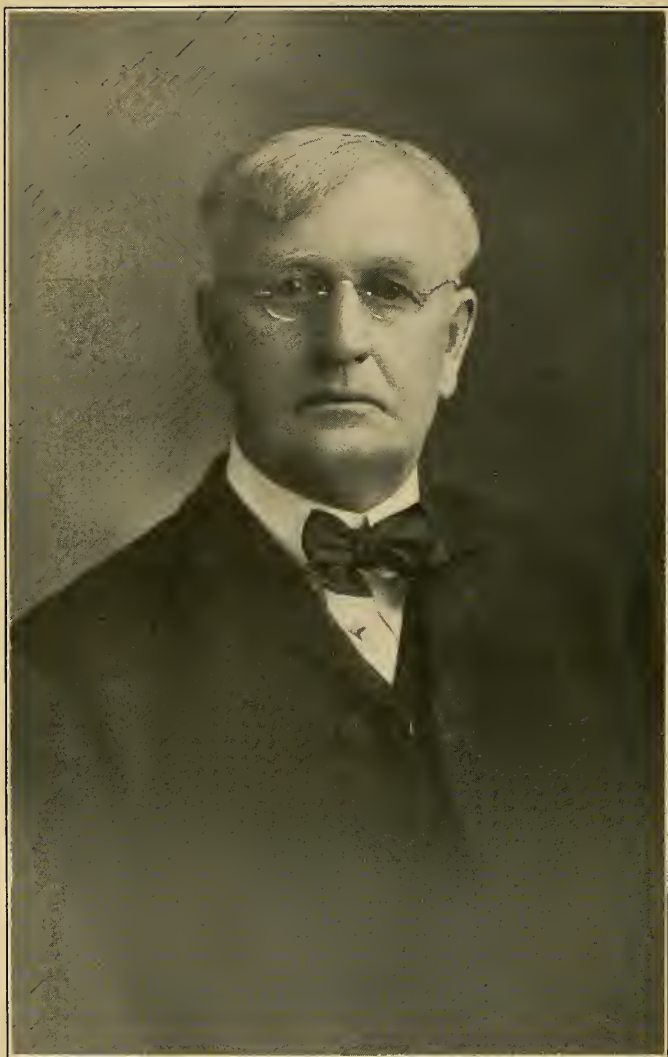

PERRY'S ORATION ON
**THE
AMERICAN
FLAG**

DELIVERED NOV. 29th, 1917
AT SHOSHONI, WYOMING



PRICE, FIFTY CENTS

THE ROYCROFTERS
EAST AURORA, NEW YORK
1918



*For World Liberty.
Yours sincerely,
George Piny.*

THE AMERICAN FLAG

AN ORATION DELIVERED

By

REV. GEORGE PERRY
IN SHOSHONI, WYOMING
NOVEMBER 29th

1917



Price, Fifty Cents



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THE ROYCROFTERS, EAST AURORA, N.Y.
1918

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Have You Read Perry's Oration on the American Flag

Delivered November 29, 1917

Shoshoni, Wyoming



HERE stands in bas-relief a day, spent in visiting the historic spots of Richmond. One incident particularly is recalled with peculiar significance at this crisis in our world affairs. Reverently sitting in the cathedral-twilight of old St. John's church, in the very pew where Patrick Henry stood when he delivered his famous speech before the second Virginia convention, March 20, 1775, I closed my eyes,

picturing the scene as it must have appeared that day so long ago.

¶ There were all the great men of the day, including George Washington, Jefferson and many others, some of whom had traveled long distances to be present, filling the pews to overflowing, even to the window ledges outside, and in their midst an orator delivered himself of words of fire, even as did St. Paul at Athens of old.

Suddenly a voice broke my reverie and the stillness of the church.

It was our old guide repeating the words Patrick Henry uttered a century and a half ago, quietly and deliberately at first, but as he neared the end of the speech, even the immortal Henry himself, could he have heard, need not have been ashamed of the humble old orator who, as he progressed, became more earnest and impressive:

¶ "The war is inevitable—and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come! It is vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace! Peace! But there is no peace. The war is actually begun. The gale that sweeps from the North will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms. Our brethren are already in the field? Why stand we here idle—is life so dear, or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

In these modern times, are we not impressed with the spirit of sacrifice, found in these great leaders and statesmen? Generally speaking, sacrifice means that which is devoted, surrendered, presented, or abandoned for the good or welfare of another. A grain of corn placed in the ground is sacrificed for the nourishment of humanity, and the flower-seed sacrifices itself to bring beauty and fragrance to the world.

Man must sacrifice himself for the help and comfort of other men, and for succeeding generations. The toiler in mill or mine, the worker in shop, store or office, the inventor, philanthropist, physician, the brain worker, and all men engaged in any honest endeavor are sacrificing their time, energy, and talents that others may enjoy the results of their labors. While man is making a sacrifice for the benefit of others he is also receiving benefits for himself, and realizes the satisfaction that comes from deeds accomplished, and victories won.

The highest and most noble example of moral sacrifice, in this day, is the soldier who leaves a comfortable home, kind friends, pleasant companions, and enters a conflict that requires all his physical and mental energies. He knows of the hardship and dangers ahead, and yet, unconsciously, he is making a sacrifice that others may enjoy liberty, peace and the pursuit of happiness.

In these stirring times, which demand so much from our loyalty, and patriotism, and when the display of the National Emblem should inspire not only cheering, but also reverence and respect for that for which it stands, a discussion of how the eagle became our nation's symbol seems especially fitting. It is probable that few have ever given a thought as to why the eagle was adopted as our national bird. It is in no way particularly significant of America, and is not purely an American bird.

The subject was given considerable thought by our forefathers and soon after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Hancock was placed at the head of a committee whose attention was turned to creating a national flag or seal. When this committee reported to Congress, none of the designs submitted seemed suitable to that body, although Jefferson had worked out a shield, containing something symbolical of all the peoples that entered into the making of America; the Government represented as a herculean figure with a giant club, standing between Vice and Virtue, was John Adams' idea: Franklin had created a seal, using the story of Pharaoh pursuing the Hebrews into the Red Sea.

The committee dispersed. In the ensuing years five distinct groups of men submitted over forty suggestions. In June of the year 1782 Congress finally approved of the eagle design: the eagle with the olive branch in one claw and arrows in the other. When Franklin heard of this he was much displeased and could not approve of a bird which he knew from his observations to be a rascal among the denizens of the upper air; affirming that he was a lazy bird and a great bully, none of which was at all characteristic of the new government ~~so so~~

Considering the ability and influence of Franklin, it is surprising that the eagle was ever adopted at all, but in these Twentieth-Century times it is hardly possible to conceive of any more fitting symbol, than the American eagle soaring forth to lead triumphant Allied troops to a deserved victory over German autocracy. On June 14, 1777, Congress enacted that the stripes should be reduced permanently to thirteen, and that a star should be added for each new State admitted. The new flag was flown over the House of Representatives April 13, 1818, but to-day our beautiful emblem is conspicuous in every land, and is known everywhere.

In the present war the Stars and Stripes stand for freedom of the seas, observance of international war, and the right of American citizens to travel in foreign lands, in the peaceful pursuit of profit or pleasure, unmolested in person or property. Our flag also stands for justice, civilization, and the laws of humanity: for the preservation of democracy against autocracy, and in defense of the rights of weaker nations against unjust aggression and invasion.

It represents a government that believes treaties and agreements mean more than a "mere scrap of paper," and that it will hold to strict accountability any overt act or violation of its rights. It stands back of a united patriotic people who prefer peace, but are prepared for war in defense of the principles upon which this country was founded, fought for and perpetuated. It has stood in the past, as it will in the future, that the strength of a nation is the strength of virtue and piety.

¶ It demands that our citizens, wherever they may go, shall enjoy the same protection and privileges that aliens of other nations are accorded here. It insists upon the right of our ships to sail the seas, unrestricted except by the usages of international law, requiring visit, search, and absolute safeguarding of life of passengers and crew, before seizure or destruction, if such is warranted. Our star-spangled banner, true to its glorious traditions of the past, is again unfurled

in battle in freedom's cause, and calls us to the colors, in defense of home and country, and the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness; so that in the words of the immortal Lincoln: "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." ❧ ❧

Now that war is actually upon us, let us all show our true patriotism. There is something for each one to do, whether man, woman or child. Not every one can go to the front. If you can, go gladly and quickly. Let every person wear a tiny flag and display a large one at his residence, if possible. We, as a nation, need the attitude of loyalty and patriotism, "As a man thinketh, so is he." Don't be the last person to rise when the National Anthem is sung. Don't wait for a policeman to ask you to remove your hat at sight of "Old Glory."

¶ There should be a flag of our country in every home. It should be considered as necessary to the welfare of the family as the Bible. The two are indissolubly connected in our history. There are many lessons which can be taught the children in the home in which the Flag has a prominent part. Parents should not leave the teaching of patriotism to teachers alone. Forestall the teacher in this duty and the children will be doubly benefited. The occasions of state and national holidays afford excellent opportunities for such instruction. Have a place where the home flag can be conspicuously displayed and be sure each child knows why the day is celebrated.

The significance of bars, stars, field and colors will prove interesting topics. Teach the salute and along with this give instructions in the proper deportment in public places where the national anthem is rendered. You owe this duty to your children; you owe it to the republic in which you live. Character-building is more important than money-making. A reverence for the flag and the institutions it represents is heritage of more worth than great riches. Three hundred years ago a little ship crossed the Atlantic, the *Mayflower*. People would not venture to cross the Atlantic in such a tub to-day. You could have swung it upon the deck of one of the great steamers of to-day without having appreciably added to the freight. That little ship carried in its hold a company of men and women who had left home and fatherland for Jesus' name, carried moral force enough to lay the foundation of the mightiest republic the world has ever seen. I ask the question: Shall it be overthrown? Some may say, "It's only a matter of sentiment." Nay, friends, go with me to the Hall of Flags in Boston. Look at those battle-torn and tattered. Think of the

men who carried those flags and who fought for them and tell me, if you can, that it is only sentiment. Teach the children—even the smallest—to love the flag and to wear it. The first and last text-book in a republic should be citizenship. See to it, teachers of our public schools, that our youths are taught the duties, obligations and opportunities of citizenship, if they are not taught so much about business affairs; these will come soon enough.

James W. Gerard, our late Ambassador to the German Imperial Court, has said: " People of other countries have been wondering why it is that the German government is able so easily to impose its will upon the German people. I have told by what means the control of the army is kept in the hands of the class of nobles. These are not the only means by which the system controls the country. These alone would not suffice. From the time he is four years old, the German is disciplined and taught that his government is the only good and effective form. The teachers in the schools are all government-paid, and teach the children only the principles desired by the rulers of the German people. There are no Saturday holidays in the German schools, and their summer holidays are for only three to five weeks. You never see gangs of small boys in Germany. Their games and their walks are superintended by their teachers, who are always inculcating in them reverence and awe for the military heroes of the past and present. On Saturday night the German boy is turned over by the state-paid school-teacher to the state-paid pastor, who adds divine authority to the principles of reverence for the German system." ❧ ❧

THE very atmosphere that an American boy breathes is pregnant with industrial ambition and impulses. Every American child should know that he or she lives under the best government system in the world; that politically this nation is breaking away from European systems, with the establishment of a new order of things under new systems; that pure and impartial liberty, based upon the eternal and God-given rights of all men, is a flower of American growth and cultivation.

And when you swing away from American ports for foreign lands you come under the influence of systems of government where men are not regarded as political equals, and where the rights of man as man are more or less curtailed or denied. The basis of our system is that, politically, all men are equals. This system is popular in form, from

the chief executive down to the most subordinate office in the smallest local community: all power emanates from the people and every public servant is accountable to the people, for the proper exercise of the measure of power entrusted to his keeping.

Our nation, founded in heroic patriotism, retained in that marvelous constitution but one provision suggested by expediency instead of principle, and seventy years later it came near costing us the total disruption of our national life. The war settled some things for all time—Freedom forever and everywhere on American soil; that this land shall always be “the land of the free” as it has always been “the home of the brave”; that this is not a confederacy of jealous, jeering, petty communities, but in fact as well as in form, a nation, in a civilized age among the civilized nations of the earth.

That the American mind will tolerate almost any political heresy short of treason to the idea that we are an indestructible nation; but that the slightest assault upon that principle, the first attack upon that flag, so beautifully typifies this national idea that it will summon from American work-shops, American farms, and American firesides a convocation of freemen that no human power on earth can successfully withstand.

And in these serried ranks would be seen here and there an old scarred veteran, who in his boyhood days had marched against that flag in duty's sacred name. Coming up with his wasted form and tottering frame, we can hear him saying with the illustrious Webster, when swelling with pride in the greatness and glory of his native land, “I was born an American, I live an American, I shall die an American.”

¶ Under the Stars and Stripes people may, if they are wise enough and honest enough and virtuous enough, live together and prosper under one nationality, down history and the ages, or until the end of time. If the Constitution was worthy to be idealized and venerated in the time of Washington and Jefferson, how much more should it be cherished and appreciated now? Young men of my own generation, can we ever forget, or become faithless to the priceless legacy of liberty and blessing that has been preserved to us by the heroism of these men and women before us, and by the thousands of their companions whose hallowed graves are dotted over every State in this broad Union, making sacred and consecrated forever, every foot of American soil?

I would have every American mother take her child upon her knee and recite the names and deeds of American heroism in war and peace,

until the young cheek shall burn, and the young heart swell with love of our native land. I would have every college, and every public school a school of patriotism and statesmanship, every American boy a little prince, and every citizen a king and queen. I would perpetuate all that is best and noblest in our American institutions, until the proudest boast of civilized men shall be "I am an American citizen." ❧ ❧

In the several great wars in which the United States has been engaged since the Declaration of Independence, a suitable slogan that has expressed the feeling of the American people has always been originated. In Adams's administration, when we were having trouble with France, the slogan "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute" was the watchword of this country.

During the War of 1812, Perry's famous words, "We have met the enemy and they are ours," found their way into the hearts of the American people. Another famous slogan, "You may fire when ready, Gridley," was expressed by Dewey at the battle of Manila Bay, during the Spanish-American war. During the present struggle, the War of 1917, Admiral Sims surprised England by saying, "We can begin at once." The American "Sammies" who recently landed in France have already invented a slogan that expresses the feeling of the whole American people, "Can the Kaiser." These slogans will go down in history, along with others that Yankee wit can be expected to originate.

WAR has had a weird and mysterious part in the development of the human race; by it tyrants have enlarged and maintained their kingdoms, and by it they have been overthrown. ❧ By it brave men have defended their altars and their firesides. It has been the ally of avarice and sin; but it has likewise been freedom's strong defender. One by one the principles of human liberty, under the benign protection of which we are living to-day as a free people, have sprung as if by magic from soil drenched with patriotic blood.

Marathon, Thermopylæ, Runnymede, Waterloo, Concord, Lexington, Yorktown, Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Champion Hill, Winchester, Missionary Ridge, Shiloh, and Appomattox: the history of political progress—aye, the reclamation of mankind from a condition of barbarism to that of civilization—cannot be written without using these imperishable names.

The philosopher and philanthropist look forward to a day, which we

trust may be near at hand, "when the nations shall learn war no more." But the students of history cannot fail to discover that the liberties that we now enjoy have one after another been vindicated at the point of the bayonet and the sword. Periods of national peace are in danger of becoming periods of moral stagnation. The average citizen will endure much of misrule before he will assert himself for the public good. Patriotism is the only safeguard of a free people; a republic poor in patriotism would be poor indeed. When I consider that the world has thus far learned its greatest lessons of heroism and patriotism from the battlefield; when I consider also that the practice of war, except in self-defense, or in defense of a righteous principle, is not compatible with morality nor with the highest condition of civilization, I ask, how are the altars of patriotism to be kept aflame in a great republic in time of protracted peace, and in a time when the ambitions and labors of a people are given over to the material conquest of the world? Manifestly by educating every citizen on the genius and principles of our institutions and what they have cost. Are we determined to make whatever sacrifice is necessary that that flag shall still be emblematic of the institutions which it represents to-day, and of the fundamental principles underlying the rights and privileges enjoyed by the American people, that they may be extended to other peoples who too need them, that, they, too, may rise above their present state?

What the monument really stands for is best told in the words of Daniel Webster himself. After addressing himself to the Marquis deLafayette, in appreciation of his presence, Mr. Webster said: "But our object is, by this edifice, to show our deep sense of the value and importance of the achievements of our ancestors; and by presenting this work of gratitude to the eye, to keep alive similar sentiments, and to foster a constant regard for the principles of the Revolution. Human beings are composed not of reason only, but of imagination also and sentiment; and that is neither wasted nor misplaced which is appropriated to the purpose of giving right direction to sentiments, and opening proper springs of feeling in the heart. We wish that this column, rising toward heaven among the pointed spires of so many temples dedicated to God, may contribute also to produce, in all minds, a pious feeling of dependence and gratitude. Let our conceptions be enlarged to the circle of our duties. Let us extend our ideas over the whole of the vast field in which we are called to act. Let our object be, our country, our whole country, and

nothing but our country. And by the blessing of God may that country itself become a vast and splendid monument, not of oppression and terror, but of wisdom, of peace, and liberty, upon which the whole world may gaze with admiration forever."

There are many laws and commandments which we are bound to obey, and one of the greatest of these commandments is "Honor the Flag." You may ask, why must we honor the flag? It is only a piece of cloth made of red, white, and blue. This is true, but did you ever stop to consider what it means, or to think that it has a history. It means liberty. Its history is of exceeding interest and brings to us a throng of sacred and thrilling associations. Consider what we owe to the people who fought to win this liberty. They were men who had taken their lives in their hands, set aside all their possessions for the "doctrine of liberty." To gain liberty, valiant young people rose up against an old tyranny, to establish the most influential political doctrine the world has ever known.

Throughout the country millions of men, old and young, are to-day wearing the flag. They wear it as an expression of loyalty and devotion to country. Many of them have deep appreciation of the institutions which it represents, of the fundamental principles underlying the rights and privileges which they enjoy. Yet, some of them wear it superficially. To such were recently addressed words necessitating sober thought. In a speech in Madison Square Garden, New York, an aged veteran of the Civil War said: "The man who wears the flag to-day has consecrated to it his life, his property. If he has not, he has no business to wear it." Have all who wear the flag to-day solemnly resolved to defend what it stands for, with life and property?

¶ There is a strong and valid objection to using the flag as a trademark in business, or for advertising purposes. It is neither necessary nor good taste. It cheapens regard and destroys sentiment. At the theaters, advantage is being taken more and more of these fine sentiments to get a hand for a poor act, by introducing at the critical moment the flag, or a few bars of the national anthem. This brings the audience to its feet and carries the sketch that would otherwise die a natural death. It is simply commercializing the flag and making patriotic sentiment serve a selfish purpose. Everybody sees the trick, but few have the courage to object to it. We read that hotels and restaurants in large cities, including those in the national capital, "exclude from patronage, whenever possible, men in the uniform of an American soldier or sailor."

They mean no offense to the uniform, yet do not respect it sufficiently to permit its wearers to become guests and patrons, though divested of the uniform they serve them as they do other guests. They seem to have an idea that the uniform is distasteful to the public because rendering the wearers conspicuous.

BUT who should be more conspicuous than the men who stand ready to sacrifice their lives, if need be, to protect not only these hotels and restaurants, but lives and property of American citizens everywhere? And what better insignia of loyalty and patriotism than the uniform which the defenders of this country are required to wear? Answering these questions as they should be answered, men wearing American uniforms will be made welcome, where to-day they are in some cases ostracized. The uniform deserves all the respect that may be given it.

There is something peculiarly thrilling and impressive in the spectacle of an assemblage, standing bareheaded and reverent when the national anthem is played, and the Stars and Stripes waved. Our inmost feelings are touched and our sacred obligations to country and home are brought solemnly to mind. These deep and patriotic sentiments should not be lightly trifled with, nor should they be subjected to the whim or call of every self-seeker who chooses to make capital out of them. If you have land, much or little, plant it with the spirit of patriotism to vegetables and food products. It is patriotic sentiment and duty. "Hats off to the Flag!"

The United States is at war with Germany. That means that every person, whether native or foreign born, who claims the protection of the American Flag, is at war with Germany. War is more than fighting. War is service. War is sacrifice. War is the elimination of self. War is country first and the individual last. This war will directly or indirectly affect every person living in the United States. This war will not be won unless every person does his or her part, gives his or her services, makes his or her sacrifice, places self behind the need of the nation ☛ ☛

The flag means freedom for us all, but the flag, in time of war, does not mean freedom of action for the individual. The flag means restraint, cooperation, obedient recognition of authority, preservation of law and order. Most of all it means economy. It means loyalty in little daily things as well as loyalty to the great principles of our government. It means the conduct of our lives so that nation may be

hourly strengthened. It means the giving of our best effort for the universal good. It means careful living. It means stopping of waste. It means the uttermost use of our resources, our abilities and our strength for the Great Cause. It means guarding our talk and avoiding useless discussion. It means that the United States is first, paramount, supreme, and that the want or pleasure or action of each individual must be subordinated to that fact. Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue!

Whatever the original cause of this world-war, its present issue is Democracy vs. Autocracy. The *London Daily Chronicle* truly said the cause which precipitated the conflict "was not worth the bones of a single soldier," but the issues now involved are worth life itself to every man, woman and child. This world-war jeopardizes human rights, should victory rest with autocracy. Autocracy is government of, for, and by class. It looks to the perpetuity of ruling families at whatever cost to the governed people. It is founded wholly on the principle that "might makes right," therefore holds sacred no word or pledge that becomes inimical to its purpose. Autocracy is the antithesis of democracy which Abraham Lincoln defined as government of, for, and by the people. Next to divine right come human rights, one of which is self-government. Democracy is the world issue to-day.

Democracy means equal rights, and equal protection in the enjoyment of common rights and privileges. It means equal opportunity not only in self-government but for self-advancement—for the prosecution of all legitimate aims and purposes. It means freedom of thought, speech and action, with due consideration of the rights of others, and security of person and property from the aggression of individuals or nations, because based on the fundamental principle that "all men are created free and equal." Now equal rights imply equal obligations, and obligations are threefold—to self, to society, and to government, or nation as a political organization. The individual citizen must compel, if necessary, respect for his personal rights; he must join in the protection of community rights; he must defend national rights whenever endangered—for when government created of, for and by the people, cannot minister to the people, the rights of the people are destroyed.

In a democracy especially, popular government is the keystone of the arch of civic and political rights; and when it falls the arch collapses. Obligation is discharged in many ways. In proportion to their ability

all citizens pay taxes. As selected by their fellows all citizens serve as jurors. When elected they fill the offices of government, etc. They must do all these things to have popular government and free institutions. In like manner they must aid their country in war. From this conclusion there can be no dissent. Democracy cannot be divorced from universal obligation to military and naval service, and to do whatever else may be deemed necessary for public good.

All this is simply elemental but necessary for full conception of and proper emphasis to, the deduction now made: in a democracy there should be no call for volunteer service in either the army or navy. The government must have the right, if it defend individual rights, to summon every man to render service according to ability—if not in the army or navy, then on the farm, in the mine, the mill, or factory, on railroads or canals. And government not only has this right, but must exercise it, if war is waged to successful issue. The experience of Great Britain proves this. The Civil War proved it. Better face this fact now than later.

In a democracy there can be no argument against compulsory military service or the selective draft, because authority comes from the people and power is resident in them. The volunteer may do his duty, but the man who refuses, should volunteers be called, practically impeaches his own citizenship. Therefore, in the exercise of their power and authority through their government, the people direct what each shall do toward national defense, and the quality of service rendered measures citizenship. Effective service means effective warfare, for the common cause which in this world-war is the triumph of democracy.

This is what democracy means to you and me, to us all—the best service for human rights of which we are capable. It is the meaning of the “New Freedom” of which Woodrow Wilson is so strenuous an apostle, and of “Ideal Democracy” of which he is so ardent a champion. It catches the spirit of this Twentieth Century watchword, “He serves best who serves others,” because it demands that God be first, the people second, and rulers third, permitting no precedence, other than that which comes from service well performed —

And nowhere else in the world should this spirit, this ideal obtain in greater measure than in these United States, the greatest, most progressive democracy on earth. In closing an address, the Secretary of the Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, Organization for Defense, said:

"With the Stars and Stripes Commodore Perry unlocked the gate that disclosed the emerald isles of the Pacific and pointed a hermit nation to civilization. With that same flag Admiral Dewey broke the shackles of the Filipinos, and General Shafter freed the Cubans. With that same flag the American people will now banish from all Europe military autocracy, and make its 'subjects' free people like ourselves." That, too, was Lincoln's luminous hour; that was his vision, that his self-appreciation, his prayer. The trade in human lives was exhibited in all its awful iniquity that day. Husbands were being torn from wives, and mothers from children; even the Christian character of some slaves was emphasized by the stone-hearted auctioneer as an adequate reason for increased prices. The boiling blood of the young countryman, rail-splitter, and river-boatman lifted to his quivering lip the defiant slogan, "By the Eternal, if I ever get a chance to hit that thing, I will hit it hard."

We were the only nation on earth who first tried to educate all the people; the first three words of the Constitution are, "WE, THE, PEOPLE." That means the slums of Chicago and New York, the negroes of the South—people speaking every language in the world, believing in every religion, and upholding every idea and form of government known to man.

NOT a few, as I said before, but the majority of our people, must be educated. Not a few, but the majority, must be honest. Not a few, but the majority, must be law-abiding. Not a few, but the majority of the people, must be devoted to the public good, and ready to sacrifice therefore when necessary. It is this people who in time of national crisis, pledge themselves to support the military, financial and economic policies of our country. We do this first, because the United States stands for democracy; for the right of the people to a voice in their government. Under this government we have received a good education; we have been protected in our life and property, and we have had an opportunity to enter any activity in life for which we were fitted. We make this pledge, secondly, because we believe democracy, not only in the United States, but also throughout the world, is threatened by the ambitions of the German Kaiser and his advisers. He has established a military system whose avowed purpose is conquest; he has waged war by barbarous and inhuman methods, the principal sufferers of which have been helpless men and women and children. He has encouraged a course of instruc-

tion by which the youth of his nation have been educated to believe in force and conquest; he has repudiated treaties; he has violated all the principles of humanity and international law in his treatment of the conquered Belgians; he has conspired against our country while at peace with us; he has sought to embroil us in war with other countries; he has based his policy toward other nations upon falsehood and deceit. For these reasons we accept the judgment of the President that no man and no nation can depend upon the word or treaty of the present German government. For these reasons we pledge ourselves and our property to the cause of our country, and we will accept whatever service we are able and fitted to undertake.

And so be it in the great conquest, that is upon us as a nation, that in the language of true patriotism—"Yes, I 'm bleeding and dying, but 'Old Glory' never touched the ground,"—this victory will mark a new America, and, please God, will give further inspiration to all peoples, to individual and national righteousness to the end that democracy triumph, and autocracy perish from the face of the earth, leaving a better world for all mankind to live in.

All honor to him who in his country's need is ready to rise and sacrifice himself in her defense, and who is willing to die in order to perpetuate the principles in which he believes. The most prominent feature of the American people is the desire to give to every one the privilege of upholding the principles in which they believe, and this feature of our Americanism will be put to the test when this great war shall have ceased: and may we be able to stand the test, and come out with honor to ourselves and our country.

There are professed lovers of the flag who are actual traitors to it. Love for the flag demands interest in the people that live under it. Men greedy of personal gain who disregard the rights and profit by the misfortunes of others are traitors of the meanest type. No flag can win and maintain the highest respect when its citizens prey upon each other. The presence of the vulture suggests the carrion. Wild nature lives by the destruction of nature around it. Civilized people live most when they help the weak grow strong—by eliminating what leads to decay 

But here and there the conscienceless human vulture pounces upon the unfortunate in common danger and sinks his talons of greed into the little they have, thereby dishonoring the flag and marring the image in which he is created. Such men, however lustily they may cheer Old Glory, are traitors to the Stars and Stripes. Honest returns

for investment and effort should be accorded every man. More than this is treason to national progress. Such conduct lowers the flag.

The Armageddon of Autocracy and Democracy is here. Dear as have been the traditions of the Fatherland, we must resent the German disregard for others and her policy of gain at any cost. The New World was born of Freedom and has learned to love her heritage. A mailed hand seeks to crush all the principle we hold dear. The flag of freedom is held in derision, her people are counted negligible.

Sons of Freedom, you and the flag must lift the gauntlet of oppression and hurl it and all it stands for beyond possibility of recovery. Not antagonism of people but of principle is to be the aim of your effort. In the way you can help most it is your duty to honor the flag by making its principles the redeeming force of people now oppressed, and guaranteeing to all the world freedom, equity and peace.

When Garibaldi was thrown into prison, he said: "Let fifty Garibaldis be thrown into prison—but let Rome be free!" He counted himself as of no consequence, but his cause as everything. Such a spirit set Italy on fire. When he went before a crowd of young men, to appeal for recruits, they demanded what he had to offer as inducements. The old man replied, "Poverty and hardships and battles and wounds and victory." They caught his enthusiasm, threw their hats into the air, and enlisted on the spot.

As Israel Putnam left the plow in the furrow and mounted a field-horse, when the bugle sounded for the rallying at Cambridge; as the minute-men of Middlesex left workshop and farm at Paul Revere's call to Lexington; as the youth of our land are responding to the call for volunteers in time of war—so our patriotism should have men work, and watch, with their finger on the latch under the inspiration of a going which, be it near or far off, is a going of a sorrow or of joy forever to our freedom!

"Hear the tread of pioneers, of nations yet to be;
The first low wash of waves, where soon shall roll a human sea.
The rudiments of empire here are plastic yet, and warm;
The chaos of a mighty world is rounding into form."

So nigh is grandeur to our dust, so near is God to man,
When duty whispers low, Thou must, the youth replies, I can."

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